

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      GEORGE 02599 221756Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07  
TRSE-00 /063 W

----- 095639 /60

R 221700Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3923  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2599

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, GY, US, PFOR  
SUBJECT: CHRONICLE REPORTS BURNHAM REMARKS ON BROWN STATEMENT  
TO U.S. BLACK REPORTER

REF: GEORGETOWN 2196

1. CHRONICLE ON DEC. 22 PUBLISHED PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE  
ARTICLE BY REPORTER LINN WASHINGTON CONCERNING DEPARTMENT  
REACTION TO BURNHAM'S REMARKS IN HIS OCTOBER 17 SPEECH ON  
CUBANA AIRLINER CRASH. HEADLINE READ "EVIDENCE IN  
BURNHAM SPEECH STILL TO BE REFUTED-NO REPLY BY U.S.  
STATE DEPARTMENT." WASHINGTON MAINTAINED THAT THE  
DEPARTMENT'S STRONG RESPONSE TO PM'S INFERENCES TO U.S.  
INVOLVEMENT MADE IN HIS SPEECH HAVE RESULTED IN QUOTE  
CHARGES OF RACISM PERVADING THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNQUOTE.  
WASHINGTON STATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT REACT IN  
A SIMILAR TONE TO CASTRO'S EXPLICIT ALLEGATIONS OF CIA  
INVOLVEMENT. HE QUOTED BURNHAM TO THE EFFECT THAT  
HE HAD NOT ATTACKED THE U.S. IN HIS SPEECH BUT HAD  
ONLY POINTED OUT THE FACTS AND IT WAS THE  
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DEPARTMENT'S DUTY TO ANSWER THE FACTS POINT BY  
POINT. INSTEAD THEY CHOSE TO HIDE BEHIND  
ARROGANT STATMENTS. PM SAID THAT GUYANA HAD BEEN  
SINGLED OUT TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON BECAUSE OF OUR  
FRIENDSHIP WITH CUBA.

2. ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDED EXPLANATION BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN BROWN EXPLAINING DEPARTMENT REACTION. BROWN STRESSED THAT MESSAGES WERE PASSED TO BURNHAM PRIOR TO OCT.17 STRONGLY DENYING ANY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SABOTAGE OF AIRLINER. THEREFORE, BURNHAM SPEECH WAS TERMED UNACCEPTABLE BY BROWN IN LIGHT OF THIS.

3. STORY QUOTED FONMIN WILLS TO EFFECT THAT DUE TO ELECTORAL PRESSURES FORD DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR SOFT AND THERE WERE NO SECONDARY ISSUES TO MUTE U.S. RESPONSE. ALSO IN ARTICLE WAS STATEMENT BY GOG MINISTER OF STATE NASCIMENTO LABELING THE DEPARTMENT'S BALD-FACED LIES STATEMENT UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF RUDNESS.

4. ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE SUPPOSED FACTS SUCH AS LUGO'S DIARY WITH LEO'S NAME IN IT, HE DID NOT EVALUATE THEM AND RELIED INSTEAD ON GOG OFFICIALS' COMMENTS.

5. ON DEC. 10, CHRONICLE CARRIED ANOTHER UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLE FROM THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE WHICH SKETCHED A FLATTERING PORTRAIT OF THE PM. BURNHAM WAS DEPICTED AS AN UNPOMPOUS MEMBER OF THE WORKING CLASS LABORING FOR THE GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE.

6. COMMENT: WASHINGTON WAS REPORTER WHO MET  
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EARLIER WITH CHARGE AND PAO (CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL). OUR INITIAL REACTION TO THIS STORY WAS "WHY NOW?". IN THIS CONNECTION, FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED TO CHARGE BEFORE HE LEFT COUNTRY ON DEC. 11 THAT PRIME MINISTER HAS STILL NOT RESPONDED DIRECTLY TO BROWN STATEMENT SO THIS ARTICLE MAY BE ONE WAY IN WHICH BURNHAM IS ABLE TO DO SO. BURNHAM COMES ACROSS IN ARTICLE AS MODERATE, REASONED LEADER WHO APPEARS HURT AND PUZZLED BY OUR STRONG REACTION AND IN EFFECT AT THIS TIME PUTS THE BALL BACK IN OUR COURT ON THIS ISSUE. EMBASSY ALSO PERCEIVES THAT ARTICLE PUBLISHED NOW TO INDICATE GOG DISPLEASURE OVER USG FAILURE OF WHAT GUYANESE BELIEVE TO BE THEIR MOVES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.  
MCCOY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GEORGE02599  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 GEORGETOWN 2196  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHRONICLE REPORTS BURNHAM REMARKS ON BROWN STATEMENT TO U.S. BLACK REPORTER  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PFOR, GY, US, (WASHINGTON, JAMES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006